



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 600

FY-06-227

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 14, 2006

PSC STAFF REACHES AGREEMENT IN NEW FLORENCE TELEPHONE INVESTIGATION

JEFFERSON CITY—Qualifying customers receiving basic local service from New Florence Telephone Company on June 2, 2006 would receive bill credits and the telephone company would make a payment to the Public School Fund under an agreement filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission.

If approved by the five member commission, the agreement calls for one-time bill credits of approximately \$50.00 per access line to qualifying customers of the New Florence Telephone Company. In addition, New Florence Telephone would pay \$100,000 to the Public School Fund. The \$100,000 payment shall not be ratepayer funded.

The agreement also calls for a two year rate moratorium and it contains language regarding the sale of the telephone company to a *bona fide*, independent, third-party purchaser. If an application seeking approval of the sale of the telephone company is not filed with the PSC by October 2, 2006, unless the PSC Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel agree to an extension, an additional payment of \$250,000 would be paid to the Public School Fund.

The agreement resolves issues associated with a PSC Staff complaint filed against the telephone company. The agreement was signed by the PSC Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel, New Florence Telephone Company, Robert Williams and Local Exchange Company, LLC.

Applications to intervene in this case must be filed on or before **June 28, 2006**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies should be sent to: Nathan Williams, Senior Counsel, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102; W.R. England, III, Brydon, Swearngen & England, P.C., 312 East Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456; Peter Mirakian, III and Mark A. Thornhill, Spencer, Fane, Britt & Browne LLP, 1000 Walnut, Suite 1400, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; and Michael F. Dandino, Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the Commission.

New Florence Telephone Company provides basic local telecommunications service in Montgomery County, in and around New Florence, Missouri.

-0-

Case No. TC-2006-0184